

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8531

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: JULY 11 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT HUSSEIN VISIT AS PART
OF CONTINUING SYRIAN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE LEBANESE
CRISIS

1. SYRIAN MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO HUSSEIN VISIT
JULY 10. PRESS BANNERED: "PRES. ASAD AND KING HUSSEIN
REVIEW RESULTS OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS, THE ARAB
POSTURE, SITUATION IN LEBANON AND COMING ARAB FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING. TWO LEADERS TOUCH UPON STEPS TO CONSOLI-
DATE INTEGRATION BETWEEN TWO BROTHERLY REGIONS." TISHRIIN
OBSERVED THAT MEETING REFLECTED "CONCERN FOR PRINCIPLED
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POSTURE TOWARD ALL ISSUES, ESPECIALLY LEBANESE CRISIS AND

PALESTINIAN CAUSE." TISHRIIN CLAIMED IT CONSTITUTED "NEW STEP ON ROAD TO CONSOLIDATE COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION BETWEEN TWO ARAB COUNTRIES."

2. FOLLOWING HUSSEIN'S DEPARTURE ASAD RECEIVED JALLUD FOR DISCUSSION ON "OUTCOME OF HIS (JALLUD'S) LATEST CONTACTS IN LEBANON AND DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANESE CRISIS."

3. SYRIAN MEDIA REPEATED STATEMENT BY AL SEC GEN RIAD TO KUWAITI AL-WATAN IN WHICH HE REMARKED THAT ASAD HAD PLEDGED TO AL TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE SYRIA'S READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH ASF AND END DIFFERENCES WITH PALESTINIANS. PRESS NOTED THAT AL MEETING IN CAIRO ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 10 POSTPONED ONE DAY BECAUSE OF "ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS." PRESS ALSO REPORTED KUWAITI FORMIN'S SUGGESTION THAT ARAB STATES GO BEYOND PRESENT STAGE OF AL DISCUSSION TO HOLD ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS LEBANESE CRISIS AND ARAB SOLIDARITY.

4. GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF ICATU WILL CONVENE EMERGENCY MEETING JULY 20 TO STUDY LEBANESE SITUATION. CITING REPORT ISSUED BY ICATU IN CAIRO YESTERDAY, PRESS LISTED ECONOMIC LOSSES INCURRED SINCE ADVENT OF STRIFE IN LEBANON AS SIXTY BILLION LEBANESE POUNDS; NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED 375,000; 35,000 TECHNICIANS AND 50,000 WORKERS HAVE EMIGRATED FROM LEBANON.

5. INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL LEBANESE PRESENTLY RESIDING IN SYRIA MUST OBTAIN ID CARDS FROM LOCAL INTERMIN OFFICES.

6. JULY 10 DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY SUGGESTED THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERS COULD PLAY IMPORTANT FUTURE ROLES IF THEY DESISTED FROM COMMITTING FURTHER ERRORS.

7. COMMENT: DECISION TO ISSUE ID CARDS TO LEBANESE REFUGEES MARKS RECOGNITION ON PART OF SARG THAT IT WILL HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF LEBANESE ON ITS HANDS FOR SOME TIME TO COME. APART FROM SECURITY RISK WHICH THEY ENTAIL AND WHICH HAS PREOCCUPIED SECURITY AUTHORITIES FOR MONTHS, LEBANESE STEADILY LOSING THEIR POPULARITY WITH LOCAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POPULATION DISGRUNTLED WITH THEIR FLASH CARS, CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION AND BURDEN THEY IMPOSE ON HOTELS, FOOD SUPPLY AND PUBLIC FACILITIES.
MURPHY

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